

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 XMB-04

OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 EURE-00

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P 281653Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4194

UNCLAS LONDON 13332

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UK, PINT

SUBJECT: MINERS' VOTE FOR MODERATION AND WAGE RESTRAINT
WILL AUGMENT TUC ANTI-INFLATION POLICY

REF: LONDON 11011

1. 60.5 PERCENT OF BRITISH MINERS WHO VOTED IN PIT BALLOTS THROUGHOUT THE COAL FIELDS REGISTERED THEIR "SUPPORT FOR THE EFFORTS OF THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL AND THE LABOR GOVERNMENT TO COMBAT INFLATION." THE VOTE, WHICH WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY, FOLLOWS A DECISION MADE EARLIER BY THE NUM EXECUTIVE (REFTL) TO ENDORSE THE SIX POUND WAGE LIMIT WHICH IS PART OF THE TUC-BACKED GOVERNMENT'S ANTI-INFLATION POLICY.

2. THE "YES" VOTE -- WHILE NOT OVERWHELMING -- IS INDEED SUBSTANTIAL ENOUGH TO BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR WAGE RESTRAINT AT THE TUC CONGRESS WHICH OPENS IN BLACKPOOL SEPTEMBER 1. MORE IMPORTANTLY IF, AS EXPECTED, THE TUC CONGRESS ENDORSES THE WAGE RESTRAINT POLICY, THE MINERS ARE LIKELY TO MODERATE THEIR WAGE DEMANDS WHEN THEY BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE NATIONAL COAL BOARD LATER IN

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THE YEAR.

3. ONLY TWO OF THE MORE THAN TWENTY REGIONS WHICH COM-
PRISE THE NUM -- SCOTLAND AND SOUTH WALES, BOTH OF WHICH
ARE LEFT-LED -- VOTED AGAINST THE POLICY. YORKSHIRE
MINERS, REJECTED, ALBEIT NARROWLY, THE ADVICE OF THEIR
OWN LEADER, THE LEFT-WING MILITANT, ARTHUR SCARGILL, TO
VOTE AGAINST THE NUM EXECUTIVE'S RECOMMENDATION TO SUP-
PORT THE TUC AND THE GOVERNMENT.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, WAGE RATES, MEETING VOTING RECORDS, MINING INDUSTRY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON13332
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750298-0488
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750810/aaaaaibe.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 11011
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 FEB 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2004 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINERS' VOTE FOR MODERATION AND WAGE RESTRAINT WILL AUGMENT TUC ANTI-INFLATION POLICY
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, ECON, UK, NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006